

Thangmi language

Thangmi, also called **Thāmī**, **Thangmi Kham**, **Thangmi Wakhe**, and **Thani**, is a Sino-Tibetan language spoken in central-eastern Nepal and northeastern India by the Thami people. The Thami refer to their language as *Thangmi Kham* or *Thangmi Wakhe* while the rest of Nepal refers to it as *Thāmī*. The majority of these speakers, however, live in Nepal in their traditional homeland of Dolakhā District. In India, the Thami population is concentrated mostly in Darjeeling.^[3] The Thangmi language is written using the Devanagari script.^[4] Thangmi has been extensively documented by Mark Turin.

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Thangmi	
Thāmī, Thangmi Khan,Thani	
 <div>Thangmi Kham and Thangmi Wakhe</div>	
Pronunciation	thang-mi
Region	Nepal and India
Ethnicity	Thami
<div>Native speakers</div>	23,200 (2011 census) ^[1]
<div>Language family</div>	<div>Sino-Tibetan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newaric<ul style="list-style-type: none">Baram–Thangmi<ul style="list-style-type: none">Thangmi</div>
<div>Dialects</div>	<div>Dolakha</div> <div>Sindhupalcok</div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	thf
Glottolog	than1259 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/than1259) ^[2]

Distribution

Thangmi is spoken in:

- Janakpur Zone: northern and western Dolakha District; Ramechhap District (villages on Sailing Khola)
- Bagmati Zone: eastern Sindhupalchok District
- Kathmandu

Ethnic Thami outside Dolakha and Sindhupalcok districts no longer speak Thangmi.

Classification

The Thangmi language seems to have many similarities with other languages in Nepal. For example, Barām, Kiranti and Newar. Studies from Konow (1909), Shafer (1966), Stein (1970), Toba (1990), van Driem (1992) and Turin demonstrate that Thangmi is closely related to the Rai and Newar languages.

Grammar

Thangmi	English	Pronoun
<i>gai</i>	I	first person singular
<i>ni</i>	we	first person plural
<i>naŋ</i>	you	second person singular
<i>niŋ</i>	you	second person plural
<i>to</i>	he, she, it	third person singular
<i>tobaŋ</i>	they	third person plural

Dialects

Dolakhā vs. Sindhupālcok

Thangmi consists of two dialects, Dolakhā (East) and Sindhupālcok (West). They differ in terms of phonology, nominal, and verbal morphology and in lexicon. The majority of the Thangmi speaking population use the Dolakhā dialect while only a handful speak in Sindhupālcok. The Dolakhā dialect offers a more complete verbal agreement system while the Sindhupālcok dialect has a more complex nominal morphology.

Kinship		
English	Dolakhā	Sindhupālcok
younger brother	<i>hu</i>	<i>calaca hu</i>
younger sister	<i>hu</i>	<i>camaica hu</i>
father's eldest brother	<i>jekhapa</i>	<i>jhya?apa</i>
father's younger brother	<i>ucyapa</i>	<i>pacyu</i>
father's eldest sister	<i>nini</i>	<i>jhya?ama</i>
father's younger sister	<i>nini</i>	<i>nini</i>
mother's eldest brother	<i>palam</i>	<i>palam</i>
mother's younger brother	<i>malam</i>	<i>mou</i>
mother's eldest sister	<i>jekhama</i>	<i>jhya?ama</i>
mother's younger sister	<i>macyu</i>	<i>phus?ama</i>

Thangmi songs

The Thami population are people who are rich in cultural and traditions. Their language is a large part of who they are and they portray this in their cultural, mostly in music. The Nepal Tham Society (NTS) produced a handful of Thangmi songs that were recorded in 2007. The lyrics were written by Singh Bahadur Thami, Devendra Thami and Lok Bahadur Thami. Here are some examples:

Consoantes:

क्	ख्	ग्	घ्	ङ्
k	kh	g	gh	ṅ
च	च	ज	झ	ञ
c	ch	j	jh	ṇ
ट्	ठ्	ड्	ढ्	ण
t	th	ḍ	ḍh	ṇ
त्	थ्	द्	ध्	न
t	th	d	dh	n
प	फ	ब	भ	म
p	ph	b	bh	m

Devanagari is the script that the Thangmi language uses.



Dolakha, Nepal

[1] (http://himalaya.socanth.cam.ac.uk/collections/music/rengpatangko/downloads/Track_02.mp3)

[2] (http://himalaya.socanth.cam.ac.uk/collections/music/rengpatangko/downloads/Track_03.mp3)

[3] (http://himalaya.socanth.cam.ac.uk/collections/music/rengpatangko/downloads/Track_04.mp3)

Comparative vocabulary

The following 210-word list of five Thami dialects is from Regmi, *et al.* (2014).^[5] The dialects covered are:

- Babre VDC, Dolakha District
- Lapilang VDC, Dolakha District
- Suspa Kshamavati VDC, Dolakha District
- Daduwa VDC, Ramechhap District
- Chokati VDC, Sindhupalchok District

Baram words from Kansakar (2010)^[6] are also provided for comparison.

Gloss	<u>Babre</u>	<u>Lapilang</u>	<u>Suspa Kshamavati</u>	<u>Daduwa</u>	<u>Chokati</u>	<u>Baram</u>
body	maŋ	maŋ	maŋ	maŋ	jiu	aŋ (IA loan)
head	kapu	kapu	kapu	kapu	kapu	kəpu
hair	cimyaŋ	cimeŋ	cimeŋ	mus	mus	sjaŋ
face	k ^h en	k ^h en	k ^h en	k ^h en	k ^h en	mik
eye	mese	mese	mesek	mese	mese	mik
ear	kulna	kulna	kulna	kulna	kulŋa	kuna
nose	ciŋa	ciŋya	ciŋa	cīyǎ	ciyǎ	cina
mouth	ugo	ugo	ugo	ogo	ogo	anam
teeth	suwa	suwa	suwa	suwa	suwa	swa
tongue	cile	cile	cile	cile	cile	ce le
breast	cucu	cyucyu	cucu	nunu	cucu	nənu
belly	baŋkal	baŋkal	baŋkal	bʌŋɡʌl	bʌŋɡal	ujaŋ
arm/hand	laʔ	laʔ	lak	la	la	hit
elbow	uru	ʔuŋ	uru	uru	kuino	kuina (IA loan)
palm	oilya	laʔ	lak	pati	la	lapʈa
finger	c ^h umpi	c ^h umpi	cumpi	cyukuri	cukuri	əŋla (IA loan)
fingernail	pin	pin	pin	pin	pin	luŋdziŋ
leg	konte	konte	konte	konte	lai	undzik
skin	ʃebi	ʃebi	ʃebi	ʃebi	ʃebi	chala (IA loan)
bone	koʃa	koʃa	koʃa	koʃya	koʃya	haɖ (IA loan)
heart	lonse	lonse	lonsek	lonse	lonse	muʈu (IA loan)
blood	cai	cai	cai	cʌi	cʌi	cihui
urine	uʃi	uʃi	uʃi	uʃi	uʃi	ci
feces	kuʔi	kuʔi	kiʔi	kuʔi	kili	ku
village	raʔe	dese	dese	dese	dese	hannuŋ (IA loan)
house	nem	nem	nem	nem	nem	nam
roof	c ^h ana	c ^h ana	pali	pali	c ^h ana	chano
door	k ^h aʔoŋ	k ^h aʔuŋ	k ^h aʔo	k ^h ʌʔu	k ^h aʔu	ɖhoka (IA loan)
firewood	seŋ	seŋ	seŋ	seŋ	seŋ	siŋ
broom	t ^h ope	t ^h ope	t ^h ope	t ^h ope	t ^h ope	astuŋ

mortar	yambaʔ	lokmanʃ	lokmanʃ	ʈim	luŋ	siləuʈo (IA loan)
pestle	ulum	lok	ulum	ulum	loʰoro	loʰoro
hammer	ʈʰokʈʰokya	ʈʰokʈʰokya	ʈʰokʈʰoke	ʈʰukʈʰukia	ʈʰokʈʰokya	hətəuʈo (IA loan)
knife	aikuca	aikuca	aikuca	karda	ɕakku	ukhmen
axe	rapa	rapa	rapa	raʔpa	rapa	kəm
rope	ʃakpa	ʃakpa	ʃakpa	ʃyapa	qamla	qori (IA loan)
thread	dʰago	sale	bena	ʃyapa	dʰago	ləkthun
needle	hili	hili	yuli	yuli	huli	pənuŋ
cloth	myuŋ	miŋmyaŋ	myuŋ	myũ	myuŋ	mu
ring	saimundro	saimundro	saimundro	ʌŋguliŋ	ʌũʈʰi	əŋʈʰi (IA loan)
sun	uni	uni	uni	uni	uni	uni
moon	ɕʌʌuni	ɕʌʌuni	ɕʌʌuni	ɕʌʌʔuni	ɕʌʌuni	ɕəʌuni
sky	sʌrgya	sʌrgya	sʌrge	sʌrge	ʌkas	akas (IA loan)
star	ucʰi	ucʰi	ucʰi	ucʰi	ucʰi	tara (IA loan)
rain	paŋku	paŋkuyusa	jʰʌriuan	ʃyarde	jʰari	aŋmət
water	paŋku	paŋku	paŋku	pʌŋku	paŋku	awa
river	ʃoŋ	ʃoŋ	ʃoŋ	ʃoŋ	ʃoŋ	gudul
cloud	dʰumma	kʰaʃu	kʰasu	dʰumma	dʰumpa	a mu
lightning	mirlisidu	sʌrgyatowan	mirliksa	miklik	ɡʌʈaŋɡuʈuŋʈʰa	-
rainbow	indreni	indreni	indreni	lʌrkuni	indreni	indreni (IA loan)
wind	pʰaʃa	pʰaʃa	pʰaʃa	pʰaʃya	pʰaʃya	asi
stone	ʈiŋ	ʈiŋ	liŋ	ʈiŋ	lyuŋ	kumba
path	ulam	ulam	ulam	ulam	ulam	uŋma
sand	pʰaʃeʈiŋ	kʰreʔduʈiŋ	jaŋkʰa	syəŋqo	bʌluwa	balwa (IA loan)
fire	me	me	me	me	me	mui
smoke	asku	asku	asku	acʰa	dʰuwātʰan	isku
ash	tarba	traba	traba	traba	tabra	maju
mud	nasa	nasa	nasa	nasa	nasa	nəsa
dust	pʰaʃe	pʰasse	dʰule	buʃi	dʰulo	dhulo
gold	sun	loŋ	luŋ	goʰo	sun	sun (IA loan)
tree	doŋbo	duŋbo	dombo	pole	ruk	sjaŋma

leaf	aja	aja	aja	aja	aja	su
root	pole	pole	nara	dara	jara	dzəra
thorn	puɬu	puɬu	puɬu	puɬu	puɬu	achu
flower	reŋ	reŋ	reŋ	reŋ	reŋ	phul (IA loan)
fruit	pʰalpʰul	pʰalpʰul	pʰalpʰul	kaŋtʰamɪ	pʰalpʰul	phalphul (IA loan)
mango	ãp	ãp	amcur	ãp	ãp	əmba (IA loan)
banana	muĩ	mui	muĩ	muĩ	mui	umse
wheat (husked)	jaʔcʰo	jaʔcʰo	jakso	jacʰo	jaʔcʰo	gəu
barley	akan	akan	akan	akan	akan	dzəu
rice (husked)	jake	jaki	jake	meke	jake	hadza
potato	kwai	kwai	kwai	kwai	koi	alu (IA loan)
eggplant	banɬa	banɬa	bʰenɬa	bɪnɬa	bʰẽɾi	bhənɬa (IA loan)
groundnut	bɪdam	bɪdam	bɪdam	bɪdam	bɪdam	bədam (IA loan)
chili	marci	mɪrci	marci	aso	kʰorsani	asok
turmeric	ɦɪrdi	ɦɪrdi	ɦɪrdi	besar	besar	besar (IA loan)
garlic	lɪsun	lɪsun	lɪsun	lɪmbo	lɪsun	ləsun (IA loan)
onion	pyaj	pyaj	pyaj	pyaj	pyaj	pjadz (IA loan)
cauliflower	reŋkopi	reŋkopi	kopi	kauli	kauli	kauli (IA loan)
tomato	banɬa	gyambala	gambɪ	bɪnɬa	golbʰẽɾa	golbhēda (IA loan)
cabbage	ajakopi	ajakopi	bɪnda	bɪnda	bɪnda	bənda (IA loan)
oil	asa	asa	asa	asa	asa	asa
salt	cʰya	cʰya	cʰa	cʰya	cʰa	cha
meat	cici	cici	cici	aɕʰin	cici	ku sja
fat (of meat)	cʰeu	cʰou	cʰeu	cʰo	cʰyɪu	kucho
fish	naŋa	naŋa	naŋa	naŋa	naŋa	nəŋa
chicken	waca	waca	waca	waca	waca	hocca
egg	om	aɦum	aɦum	aum	aum	ohom
cow	mamaɟya	mamaɟya	mamaɟya	ɟya	ɟya	sja

buffalo	meʃa	meʃa	meʃa	meʃya	miʃya	bhəisi (IA loan)
milk	olon	olon	olʌn	nunu	nunu	nənu
horns	narʉ	narʉ	narʉ	narʉ	narʉ	uʝʉ
tail	lime	lime	limek	leme	lime	pitik
goat	tuɽi	tuɽi	tuɽi	culi	culi	mi chja
dog	kucu	kucu	kucu	kucu	kucu	a kja
snake	rul	rul	rul	rul	rul	pəi hu
monkey	makar	makar	makar	yu	yu	pəi huk
mosquito	tinini	tinini	tinini	lʌkʰʌtoto	lʌmkʰutte	lʌmkhutte (IA loan)
ant	ɽiko	ɽiku	ɽiku	cukku	cuku	anap
spider	makarpapa	makarpapa	makarpapa	ʝrampʰal	ʝʌrampal	dzəɳna
name	name	name	name	name	name	u men
man	mi	mi	mi	mi	mi	bal
woman	camaica	camaica	camaica	camaica	camaica	mama
child	hoca	uca	huca	hucca	huca	uca
father	apa	apa	apa	apa	apa	papa
mother	ama	ama	ama	ama	ama	ama (IA loan)
older brother	bubu	bubu	bubu	bubu	bubu	dadze (IA loan)
younger brother	hu	hu	hu	hu	hu	ale
older sister	tete	tete	tete	tete	tete	didi (IA loan)
younger sister	humi	homi	humi	humi	hu	abi
son	ca	ca	ca	ca	ca	ucuwa
daughter	camai	camai	camai	camai	camai	ucuməi
husband	lawa	ɽʰoɽe	lawa	lawa	lawa	ukəi
wife	uma	uma	uma	uma	uma	uməi
boy	ʃara	ʃara	cahuca	ʃara	ca	papaca
girl	ʃarma	ʃarma	camaica	ʃyarmi	camai	mamaca
day	unise	unise	unise	ʃyanʝ	unise	unis
night	ɽahe	ɽahe	ɽae	cyae	cya	rat (IA loan)
morning	bʌcinte	bʌcinte	bʌsinte	bʌsinte	bʌʃe	hamdzaŋ
noon	unise	unise	unise	unise	unise	diuso (IA loan)

evening	ղյօշին	ղյօշի	ղյաշին	ոյծի	cyat ^h an	hole
yesterday	miryan	miryan	miryan	merg ^h yan	merg ^h yan	minja
today	yan	yan	yan	yan	yan	təja
tomorrow	bat ^t he	bat ^t he	bat ^h e	baʃe	b ^h alʃe	hogeï
week	հաբա	հաբա	հաբա	loʃyan	satadin	həpta (IA loan)
month	մաինա	մաինա	մահինե	sumcpʃyan	մաինա	məina (IA loan)
year	kale	kale	kale	dara	blɾsɒ	bərsə (IA loan)
old	k ^h aru	k ^h aru	k ^h aru	k ^h aru	k ^h aru	cənpa
new	nake	nake	naka	naka	naka	kawoi
good	apra	apra	apra	klsta	apra	kisen
bad	maʔapra	maʔapra	hijeba	majadu	maʔapra	məsen
wet	p ^h odu	p ^h odu	p ^h odu	p ^h odu	b ^h ijaiŋan	kjasun
dry	ganɟu	map ^h odu	p ^h ɒŋp ^h ɒŋ	gɒɟu	ma ^b hijai	sukhkha (IA loan)
long	ɒɒmga	ɒɒmga	ɒɒmga	ɒɒmga	ɒɒmga	alok
short	uc ^h iga	uc ^h iga	uc ^h ika	uc ^h iga	uc ^h iga	ikuri
hot	adum	adum	adum	adum	adum	kewon
cold	ʃila	ʃila	ajik	iji	cilaŋan	kjasun
right	cak ^h ur	cak ^h ur	cak ^h ur	cak ^h ur	dahine	daine (IA loan)
left	k ^h ola	k ^h ola	k ^h ola	k ^h ola	debre	debre (IA loan)
near	k ^h er	k ^h er	k ^h erte	k ^h erenɟ	c ^h eute	igin
far	ɒɒmt ^h ɒ	ɒɒmt ^h ɒ	ɒɒmt ^h ɒ	ɒɒmt ^h ɒ	ɒɒmt ^h ɒ	kalok
big	jek ^h ɒ	jek ^h ɒ	jek ^h ɒ	jek ^h ɒ	j ^h oka	alam
small	ucya	ucya	ucaca	ucyanca	ecena	ikine
heavy	gɒɾuŋ	gɒɾuŋ	ganunidu	gɒɾum	gɒɾuŋ	gegruŋ (IA loan)
light	hɒluŋ	hɒluŋ	p ^h in ^h inca	hɒluŋ	hɒluŋ	həlka (IA loan)
above	hyute	hyute	hyute	hyute	hyobbi	khun
below	n ^h ate	n ^h ate	n ^h ate	n ^h anai	nabi	hjan
white	ubo	ubo	ubo	ubo	obo	gjabo
black	kiji	kiji	kiji	kiji	kiji	ciliŋ
red	qinqiŋ	qinqiŋ	qinqiŋ	qinqiŋ	keret	phəija
one	di	di	di	di	de	de

two	nis	nis	nis	nis	nis	nis
three	sum	sum	sum	sum	sum	som
four	oli	oli	oli	oli	wali	car (IA loan)
five	walŋa	walŋa	walŋa	wāla	hwalŋa	pāc (IA loan)
six	mat	mat	mat	mɔt	mat	chə (IA loan)
seven	ra	ra	ro	lo	ʔo	sat (IA loan)
eight	la	la	la	la	la	aʔh (IA loan)
nine	kit	kit	kyut	kit	kit	nəu
ten	dicip	dicip	dicip	dicip	d ^h icip	dəs
eleven	dicipdi	dicipdi	dicipdi	dicipdi	d ^h icipde	egharə
twelve	dicipnis	dicipnis	dicipnis	dicipnis	d ^h icipnis	barə
twenty	nisdicip	nisdicip	nisdicip	nisdicip	nisd ^h icip	bis
one hundred	dicipdicip	dicipdicip	dicipdicip	dicipdicip	d ^h icipd ^h icip	de səe (IA loan)
who	su	su	su	su	su	su
what	hara	hara	hara	hara	hara	hai
where	kuta	kuta	kuta	kuta	kuta	kuni
when	kutalenj	kutalenj	kutalenj	kutalenj	hangalyan	kəile
how many	hani	hani	hani	hālī	hai	kwa
which	kundu	kundu	kundu	kundu	kundu	kun
this	ka	ka	ka	ka	ka	jo
that	to	to	to	d ^h α	to	tjo
these	kabanj	kabanj	kabanj	kɔpɔliŋ	kabali	jibanj
those	tobanj	tobanj	tobanj	topɔliŋ	tobanj	ubanj
same	to	to	to	to	to	ui
different	b ^h indɔi	b ^h indɔi	begale	toŋaka	p ^h ɔɾɔk	phərək (IA loan)
whole	sakk ^h ale	sak ^h ale	sakale	sakale	sakk ^h ali	səbəi (IA loan)
broken	kwadu	kwaʔdu	kwagdu	ʔ ^h eman	c ^h yomdu	kipak
few	uc ^h inca	uc ^h inca	uc ^h in	uc ^h inca	ic ^h ini	jurse
many	ahe	ahe	ahe	ahe	ahe	dherəi (IA loan)
all	sakk ^h ale	sak ^h ale	sakale	sakale	sakk ^h ali	səpəi (IA loan)

eat	cyasa	cyasa	cyasa	cyasa	cyasa	cago
bite	ceʔsa	ceʔsa	ceksa	ceʔsa	ceʔsa	aŋakko
hungry	kraisa	kraisa	kɭraisa	krɭisa	isakarainan	hego
drink	tunsa	tunsa	tunsa	tunc ^h a	tunc ^h a	sjaŋgo
thirsty	lakaisa	lakaisa	lakasa	lakaŋsa	lakainan	əs kago
sleep	amisa	amisa	amisa	amisa	amisa	nago
lie	pɭɭɭɭɭisa	pɭɭɭɭɭisa	pɭɭɭɭisa	bliŋsa	pɭɭɭɭɭisa	ləllumgo
sit	hoʔsa	hoʔsa	hoksa	hoʔsa	hoʔsa	hukko
give	piʔsa	piʔsa	pisa	piʔsa	picc ^h a	pigo
burn	cieʔsa	jousa	jyoksa	joʔsa	jyɭusa	cimakko
die	sisa	sisa	sisa	sisa	sisa	sigo
kill	satc ^h a	satc ^h a	satc ^h a	sɔtc ^h a	sacc ^h a	sat ko
fly	persa	persa	persa	persa	persa	ublego
walk	cawasa	cawasa	cawasa	cawasa	cawasa	dzjogo
run	droʔsa	droʔsa	droksa	droʔsa	dorɭsa	gəbango
go	hensa	hensa	hensa	hensa	hensa	jago
come	raʔsa	raʔsa	rasa	raʔsa	raʔsa	təigo
speak	cijyaŋsa	cijyaŋsa	cijyaŋsa	cijyaŋsa	cijaŋsa	khəlago
hear/listen	nasaisa	nasaisa	nasaisa	nasaisa	nasaisa	nago
look	yoʔsa	yoʔsa	yosa	jyapsa	jyapsa	ni go
I	gai	gai	gai	gɭi	gai	ŋa
you (informal)	naŋ	naŋ	naŋ	nɭŋ	naŋ	nun
you (formal)	naŋt ^h e	naŋt ^h e	naŋk ^h e	nɭŋ	naŋ	nun
he	to	to	to	to	to	u (IA loan)
she	to	to	to	to	to	u
we (inclusive)	ni	ni	ni	ni	t ^h e	niru
we (exclusive)	ni	ni	ni	ni	t ^h e	niru
you (plural)	niŋpali	niŋpali	niŋ	nɭŋpaliŋ	nɭŋpali	tibaŋ
they	tobaŋ	tobaŋ	tobaŋ	topaliŋ	topaliŋ	ubaŋ

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Further reading

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External links

- [OLAC resources in and about the Thangmi language \(http://www.language-archives.org/language/thf\)](http://www.language-archives.org/language/thf)
 - <http://www.digitalhimalaya.com/collections/music/rengpatangko/>
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